GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1462
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007
LITERACY RATE OF SCSs
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Pateriya Smt. Neeta;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the lower literacy rate among Scheduled Castes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to increase literacy rate among SCs and the details of schemes introduced and proposed to be introduced for their better education?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a) to (c) The literacy data available from the Decennial Censuses indicate that the gap between Scheduled Castes and general population in literacy levels has reduced. During 1991-2001, the literacy among Scheduled Castes increased by 17.28 percentage points compared to 12.79 percentage points increase for the total population.

The Government has taken a number of steps to strengthen the educational base of the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes. These include-

(i) Relaxed norms for opening of primary/middle schools; a primary school within 1 Km walking distance from habitations of population upto 200 instead of habitations of upto 300 population;

(ii) Abolition of tution fee in all States in Government Schools at least upto the upper primary level.

(iii) Incentives like free textbooks, uniforms, stationery, school bags etc. for these students.

(iv) Funding support to NGOs for establishing primary schools exclusively for SC children.